

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 012433 TOSEC 010036
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 012433 TOSEC 010036

NODIS

WHITE HOUSE FOR DR BRZEZINSKI

FOL TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE FROM AMMAN DTD 17 JAN 1978 QTE

S E C R E T AMMAN 0560

NODIS

DEPT PLEASE PASS TO THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PGOV, JO, PLO, XF

SUBJECT: HUSSEIN'S NEXT STEPS

REF A) AMMAN 0432, B) SECTO 1005

SUMMARY: HUSSEIN SAID HE UNDERSTANDS OUR CONCERNS
AND GIVES ASSURANCES THAT HE WILL NOT TAKE ANY
ACTIONS THAT APPEAR TO BE MOVING FROM SUPPORT
FOR SADAT OR MAKE NEGOTIATIONS WITH ISRAELIS MORE
DIFFICULT. HE ADDED THAT HE HAS BEEN CONTACTED BY
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PLO (AT THEIR INITIATIVE) AND TOLD THEM HE IS
WILLING TO RESUME DISCUSSIONS. HE BELIEVES HE CAN
DO THIS QUIETLY AND WITHOUT ROILING THE WATERS.
IN ANY EVENT, HIS POSITION HAS NOT CHANGED AND HE WOULD
BE URGING THE PLO TO GIVE MORE SUPPORT FOR SADAT AND
THE PEACE PROCESS. HE HAS NO PLANS NOW TO VISIT LIBYA.
END SUMMARY

1. REFTTEL B) ARRIVED JUST BEFORE I WENT TO SEE CROWN PRINCE HASSAN DEPART FOR THE UK AND THE U.S. KING ALSO ATTENDED AND WE MET BRIEFLY FOLLOWING THE CROWN PRINCE'S DEPARTURE.

2. USING YOUR TELEGRAM, I GAVE HIM A THOROUGH PARAPHRASE OF MAJOR POINTS IN PARAGRAPHS 1, 2, AND 3.

3. KING SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THE POINT YOU WERE MAKING, THAT HE HAD DECIDED ON SUNDAY BEFORE HE WAS IN TOUCH BY TELEPHONE WITH PRESIDENT SADAT NOT TO DO ANYTHING IN THE WAY OF TAKING AN INITIATIVE WITH THE PLO OR VISITS IN THE AREA, AND WOULD AWAIT YOUR REPORT WITH INTEREST.

4. TO BE SURE THERE WAS NO MISUNDERSTANDING, I SAID WE OBVIOUSLY THOUGHT CONTACTS WITH THE PLO AT THE PRESENT TIME WOULD MAKE JERUSALEM NEGOTIATIONS MORE DIFFICULT AND APPEAR TO REDUCE JORDAN'S SUPPORT FOR SADAT'S INITIATIVE. HE THEN SAID THAT RATHER THAN HIS TAKING AN INITIATIVE, WHICH HE HAD DECIDED FOR THE MOMENT AGAINST DOING, PLO HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH HIM. THEY REQUESTED A CONVERSATION WITH JORDAN. HE SAID HE COULD NOT REFUSE THIS AND TOLD THEM THAT HE WAS PREPARED TO CONTINUE
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DIALOGUE WITH THEM STARTED SOME TIME AGO. HE HAD NOT YET HEARD BACK FROM PLO. HE WAS SURE THAT THIS WOULD NOT CAUSE ANY PROBLEMS AND THAT HE WOULD URGE TWO THINGS ON THEM AS HE HAD DONE WITH NABLUS NOTABLE, HIKMAT AL-MASRI: A) PLO SUPPORT FOR SADAT INITIATIVE, AND B) PLO ACCEPTANCE OF ITS RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE NEGOTIATING CONTEXT. MASRI IN RESPONSE HAD GIVEN KING MANY EXCUSES. HUSSEIN NOTED HE ENDED UP CONVERSATION BY TELLING MASRI THAT PALESTINIANS SHOULD DISBAND PRESENT ORGANIZATIONS AND COMPLETELY REVISE THEIR APPROACH TO NEGOTIATIONS.

5. KING ASKED ME ABOUT PRESS REPORTS THAT YOU WERE COMING HERE. DRAWING ON PARAGRAPH 4 I TOLD HIM THAT YOU WERE SEEING ONLY THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE PRESENT JERUSALEM NEGOTIATION, BUT WOULD KEEP IN TOUCH THROUGH ME, ADDING THAT MESSAGE WHICH YOU PLAN TO SEND AFTER SEEING SADAT WOULD BE A REPORT AND WOULD POINT TOWARDS AN EXCHANGE OF IDEAS ON FURTHER STEPS. I TOLD HIM OF COURSE THAT I WAS ALWAYS AVAILABLE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS OR CONVEY IDEAS. HE LOOKED DISAPPOINTED BUT, AS IS HIS STYLE IN SUCH MATTERS, SAID NOTHING FURTHER.

6. DURING OUR CONVERSATIONS, IT BECAME CLEAR THAT KING IS MOST INTERESTED IN JERUSALEM AND POTENTIAL FOR PROGRESS. HAVING BRIEFED HIM LAST WEEK ON THE AGENDA PROBLEM, I KNOW IT SEEMED STRANGE TO HIM THAT THERE WAS NOTHING FURTHER IN CONCRETE TERMS TO SAY ON THIS POINT. I WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR ANY ELUCIDATION YOU COULD OFFER ON THE SHAPE AND SCOPE ON THE AGENDA AGREED UPON FOR ME TO PASS ON TO HIM. I RECOGNIZE YOUR PREOCCUPATION MUST BE WITH THE MAIN ARENA. HOWEVER, SOME CARE AND ATTENTION IN AMMAN AT THE PRESENT TIME WILL PAY DIVIDENDS WHICH I FEEL WE MAY WELL NEED IN THE FUTURE.

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7. ACTION REQUESTED: ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION YOU CAN PROVIDE ON AGENDA FOR JERUSALEM. PICKERING UNQTE CHRISTOPHER

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